श्री जुएल उराम: हां है।

MISS MABEL REBELLO: Sir, in these days of super specialities and downsizing of Government jobs, the Tribals are finding it extremely difficult to get jobs even in Government service despite having reservations. Similarly, they are finding it very difficult to start any self-employment and succed in it. Under these circumstances, skill development is the only answer. Most of the areas where the Tribals live are undeveloped. I know the hon. Minister has mentioned a number of trades which are there in the Vocational Training Centres. I would like to know from him what the duration of these training skills or trades is. I would also like to know whether they really attain self-sufficiency and efficiency to become employable in the market at large, not in Government service. Do they really attain that efficiency? This is what I want to know from the hon. Minister.

श्री जुएल उराम: जब वे पढ़ते हैं तब दो साल की ट्रेनिंग उनकी होती है। छः महीने की स्पेशल ट्रेनिंग या सबअर्बन एरिया में जहां क्राफ्ट्समैन हैं, वहां भी उनकी ट्रेनिंग का प्रावधान है। उसके लिए अलग से....(व्यवधान)....

कुमारी मैबल रिबैलो: प्रावधान है मगर क्या वे स्किल एक्वायर करते हैं, एफिशिएंसी होती है उनमें?

श्री जुएल उराम: जितना रिक्वायर्ड है, उससे भी ज्यादा स्किल उनमें होता है, मैं यह दावे के साथ कह सकता हूं।

*683. [The Questioner (Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave) was absent. For answer *vide* page 25 .....*infra*.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 684.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, question nos. 684 and 685, both, deal with tobacco. You can go through it. If you can club them, it will be better, Because both these questions are related to tobacco, especially, in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Question no. 685 is also being taken up concurrently.

FDI Tobacco Sector

†*684. DR. Y. LAKHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers and tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh have demanded to allow foreign direct investment in the tobacco sector and permit foreign buyers to procure stocks directly from the auction platforms;

†Starred Question Nos. 684 and 685 were taken together.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the measures proposed to ensure that tobacco farmers are not exploited and blackmailed by Indian cigarette manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No change is contemplated in the present practice of not permitting FDI in tobacco sector. As per the present practice, registration of foreign buyers for participation in the auction platforms is also not permitted by the Tobacco Board.

(c) State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) has at the directive of the Government, Commenced market intervention in the Andhra Pradesh tobacco auctions to impart byuoyancy to tobacco prices in a situation of over-supply.

Crop Holiday for Tobacco

*685. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Central Government to declare crop holiday for tobacco all over the country for the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the other suggestions given by him, and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions made by the Chief Minister include:

(i) Declaration of Crop Holiday all over the country for the next season i.e. 2000-2001;

(ii) Ensuring purchase of 103 Mkgs. Indented by traders, exporters and manufacturers immediately;

(iii) Purchase of the remaining excess tobacco by STC of India.